

NPL Site Narrative for Aerojet General Corp.

AEROJET GENERAL CORP.
Rancho Cordova, California

Federal Register Notice: [September 8, 1983](#)

Conditions at listing (October 1981): The Aerojet General Corp. Site covers 8,500 acres in the eastern portion of Sacramento County, California, adjacent to the Rancho Cordova area (population 40,000). The northeast edge of the site is approximately 0.5 mile from the American River. Underlying the site are extensive (50-foot deep) gold dredge tailings, a remnant of past mining operations. The upper aquifer is 80 feet below the surface. Ground water is used extensively throughout the Rancho Cordova area to supply municipal, domestic, and industrial water.

Since 1953, Aerojet and its subsidiaries have disposed of, on-site, unknown quantities of hazardous waste, including trichloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene, chloroform, Freon and other chemicals associated with rocket propellants, and various chemical processing wastes. Soil on-site is contaminated. Monitoring data show extensive ground water contamination on- and off-site, primarily with trichloroethylene. In April 1979, Aerojet and its subsidiaries started ground water studies to examine the impact of past disposal practices and to determine the requirements for cleanup.

In December 1979, the State filed suit against Aerojet and a subsidiary, Cordova Chemical.

Status (July 1983): EPA has worked with the State since 1979, providing technical assistance through the Emergency Response Team, the Las Vegas lab, and Region IX. In March 1982, the State requested EPA's assistance in evaluating Aerojet's "Proposal for a Ground Water Quality Control Program." EPA found major technical problems in Aerojet's proposal. In the past, a confidentiality agreement between Aerojet and the State limited EPA access to the documents that would allow EPA to independently assess the company's progress toward cleanup. The agreement is no longer in effect.

On February 25, 1983, Region IX requested information from Aerojet regarding soil and ground water contamination. EPA will soon complete review of the documents received in response.

[The description of the site (release) is based on information available at the time the site was evaluated with the HRS. The description may change as additional information is gathered on the sources and extent of contamination. See [56 FR 5600](#), February 11, 1991, or subsequent FR notices.]